

A Decorative Imprint from the Animated Film "Song of the Sea"

Qingyun Gao

College of Media and Communications
Zaozhuang University
Zaozhuang, China 277160

Abstract—The animation film "song of the sea" adopts a large number of complicated decorative elements in the artistic style setting. The alternation of retro and realistic decorative elements, as well as the alternation of cold and warm colors makes the film close to the life of the audience. It displays the appeal of artists and extends a deeper cultural background and artistic atmosphere. By analyzing the application of retro and modern decorative elements in the film, this paper hopes to provide useful enlightenment for the application of decorative elements in animation films. The decorative marks in "song of the sea" are mainly reflected in the smooth and delicate geometric organization and re-structural expression, the formal aesthetic interpretation of interwoven dots, lines and planes, the mutual superposition of texture and material, the abstract expression and the feelings of minimalism.

Keywords—*animated films; song of the sea; decorative elements; using*

I. INTRODUCTION

The animated film *Song of the Sea* directed by Irish director Tom Moore is a typical representative of hand-painted animation in Europe in recent years. In 2015, the film was nominated for the best animation at the 18th golden goblet award, the best animation at the 40th Cesar award and the best animation feature at the 87th Academy Awards. The film uses frame-by-frame hand-drawn methods to draw a fictional world intertwined with reality. The role modelling in the story and scene design were full of adornment element, abstract with extremely brief concept surround among them, the adornment breath that is full of restore ancient ways and reality blend.

The animated film *Song of the Sea* tells the story of Saoirse, a half-elf and half-human girl who can be transformed into a seal, who wants to return to the sea. During this time, she and her brother Ben go through thousands of risks and finally decide to live with their families. "Song of the sea" producer Paul young said: "a good story is one that allows the audience to connect with the characters and feel a sense of belonging. The "Song of the sea" adopts the creation mode of warmth and healing, writing warmth, conveying the harmony and friendliness between human and nature as well as mutual assistance and fraternity between people, Shaping a performance mechanism of role and emotional identity, To elevate the

emotional dimension of the audience to the rational dimension and bring it into thinking, enables the viewer to enter the virtual architecture from an outsider's perspective. The overall plot of the film is full of ups and downs. It's a mixture of myths and legends. It creates a wonderful magnetic field between the audience's perception of reality and the myths and legends. This magnetic field breaks the limitation of time and space and increases the audience's sense of substitution. The film takes years to draw by hand with simple and complicated lines. The music integrates folk songs and bagpipes, which represent the strong flavor of Ireland, and conveys the simple folk customs of Ireland. Just like the mellow texture expressed in the film itself, it makes people feel as if they are in the island environment like Ireland, smelling the smell of the sea and touching the warm air.

Some people have compared animation creation to a pyramid, in which the top tower is the artistic animation created by artists, who aim to express their thinking about life and the world in the form of animation¹. The details of "song of the sea" are drawn in a complicated pattern. It sets geometric graphics, abstract lines and other decorative elements in one, which liking a finely crafted handicraft. Each frame is like the wonderful picture book illustration, the feeling in the painting, sublimates the artwork again. At the same time, the animated film "song of the sea" adds thoughts and praises of life. Tom Moore who directed the film said. When we forget our folklore, we lose not only stories, but also respect for the balance of nature and old traditions². He has also spoken of being saddened by the sight of seals being killed on beaches while vacationing with his family in Ireland. Through the animated film "song of the sea", the director not only expresses his respect for nature and traditional culture, but also adopts a unique artistic creation style to advocate the peaceful coexistence between man and nature.

¹ Chen peipei. Creation, acceptance and theory: research on foreign influences of domestic animations [D]. Zhejiang University, 2016.

² "Sea of the song" director, hand-painted remarks Chinese fans to laid a lead daydream [EB/OL]. http://www.sohu.com/a/106824281_157388, 2016-07-20.

II. DECORATIVE RHYTHM IN ANIMATION FILMS

Decorative elements as a characteristic category of art have long been applied in animated films. Decorative elements play an increasingly important role in animation films with the development of animation industry. Decorative elements can increase the sense of order of animated films. They maintain the tone of the film, endow the picture with levels and enhance the decorative texture of the picture. At the same time, they also represent a certain national art narrative style.

A. *Decorative Elements Unify the Picture Style and Tone and Enhance the Decorative Texture*

Decorative elements set the tone. They are represented as lines and circles, or symbols. Decorative elements, as invisible linkers, connect roles and backgrounds, virtually unify the film's art style, so as not to deflect the painting style and maintain the decorative aesthetic tone. As an invisible linker, decorative elements connect roles and backgrounds, virtually unify the film's art style, keep the painting style from going off-center, and maintain the decorative aesthetic tone.

B. *Decorative Elements Give the Picture a Sense of Visual Effect*

As an imagified symbol, decorative elements have strong identification. The use of decorative elements in animated characters or scenes can enhance the fullness of modeling, endowing characters with character characteristics, increasing the sense of compactness and enhancing the artistic appeal of the images.

C. *Decorative Elements Symbolize National Characteristics*

The development and change of world civilization have traces to follow, running in the waves of world civilization, Oriental relics, Greek golden age, Byzantine Islamic and Jewish civilization, Renaissance and other treasures are everywhere, which reveal a profound influence of decorative elements art, with cultural atmosphere. The decorative elements in animated films can increase the fineness of the pictures. They can be exquisite, delicate, light or deliberate, pursuing the steps of culture and revealing the flavor of national characteristics.

III. APPLICATION OF DECORATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE MODELING OF THE ANIMATION "SONG OF THE SEA"

It is not difficult to find the long history of Celtic culture from ancient Celtic art relics. The Celts learned from the Latano civilization about the primitive ornamentation such as the ripple pattern used in Greek ornaments, which is characterized by making all things become a kind of pure decoration and avoiding the imitation of natural forms³. In the creation process of art deco, they use the simple lines

such as long arc, spiral line and ripple interval alternates, draw a set of delicate and changeable decoration system that is used for living decoration, make the artwork that its creation presents strong Celtic style. Most of the decoration elements in the scene of "song of the sea" adopt spiral pattern and ring, which are important marks of Celtic civilization. The boundary stones beneath the Newgrange tomb are richly engraved with spiral and diamond marks, which are also full of certain symbolic meanings.

A. *Smooth and Delicate Geometric Organization and Restructure*

The modeling design in the animated movie "song of the sea" is exquisite. The film uses smooth and delicate stick figures to express the character image, and uses "round" or "square" geometric figures to shape the character characteristics. The character's modeling and emotional penetration in performance endows the image with humanistic atmosphere. In the image setting of the hero, the head and eyes of his brother Ben and sister Saoirse are shaped in the basic shape of a circle, which reflects the vivacity and nimbleness of the characters. Shape the image of grandma with the pattern of circle in circle, highlight the authority and determination of grandma; The square shape is used as the basic shape to shape the father's head, reflecting the character of the sedate, conservative and paranoid; In the design of legs, the designer adopts simple irregular semicircular geometry setting, and the proportion of hands and feet relative to the whole body is small and delicate. The boy and his father are both human and use a yellow hair color. The girl, Saoirse, and her mother are both seal elves and use a dark hair color. The overall shape of the owl adopts a round image, but its mouth, face and toe are set in a geometric shape similar to a triangle, highlighting their cunning. The overall modeling elements in the film are exquisite and smooth, and the colors are simple and graceful. Different geometric shapes are used to distinguish the positive and negative characters. The selection of the character image elements also reflects the changes of popular elements in the era of public aesthetics.

The setting of the animated movie "song of the sea" is derived from the geographical location of Ireland, known as the "emerald island" — the sea. The setting of sea in the film also occupies an important position in the whole film scene. In the beginning of the film, the camera unfolds from a bird's eye view around the bed in the middle of the picture. Ben and his father and mother lie in the middle of the bed, with warm lights covering them softly. The material of the floor gives the picture a sense of reality. The circle gives a sense of completeness and stability. The scene adopts a large number of concentric circles to shape the warmth of home. The warm light in the center of the image contrasts with the layered blue ocean that rotates around it. The middle transition is painted with decorative elements, enriched by spirals, wavy patterns and blurred mythological characters such as seal elves, owls, giants, etc. The picture creates an atmosphere of "intentionally or unintentionally, indifferent or indifferent". The picture appears warm and mysterious,

³ (Ireland) Thomas William Hazen Rolston. Mythological translation group of xi'an international studies university (translator). Celtic myths and legends. Shaanxi normal university publishing house co. LTD [M]. 2013.

which lays a good foundation for the development of the following story.

B. Interpretation of Formal Beauty of Point, Line and Surface Interweaving

Point, line and surface are the basic units of picture decoration elements, the main assistant of formal beauty, and the important language to convey visual information. The point is the center of visual force, the line is the track of movement, the surface is a variety of forms, they are not only foil, but also the main force, both a sense of forward, and senses of backward, interdependence, mutual transformation, build a variety of art works. The size, color, light and shade, and position change of the dots make people think and illusion. In the movie "song of the sea," when the girl Saoirse becomes a seal elf, when the decorative scenes are shown, when Saoirse opened the treasure chest containing the seals' clothes, Around the center point, regular moving points of different sizes with high brightness will flash out, which forms a sharp contrast with the dim colors around and highlights or sets off the inner world and modeling level of the character.

Line cent is long line and short line, straight line, broken line and curve, the feeling that each kind of line brings a person is different. Straight lines include horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines. Vertical lines feel straight and tough; Slant line lets a person daydream. Curve has the adornment feeling of elegant soft beauty, it is divided into geometrical curve and free curve, geometrical curve has symmetrical or order feeling, and free curve produces move and restless feeling. The line thickness also can bring different feeling; Thick lines feel thick, thin lines feel sharp. Song of the sea uses lines or curves to distinguish between major scenes. For Ben and Saoirse since childhood life of the seaside home, more use of curve expression freedom and comfortable, As for the city where Ben's grandmother lives, straight lines are often used to express depression, rules and sense of frame, so as to increase the implied contrast between them. Some scenes are presented in the form of geometric collages. Industrial buildings loom behind the scene, and sparse plants scatter the picture, showing the depressing darkness of modern urban life.

A surface is the product of the movement and termination of a line. The surface has various forms, including regular surface and irregular surface. Different forms of face bring different decorative sense, Rule surface is simple and clear, Irregular surface vivid and relaxed. In the film, the buildings in the city where Ben's grandmother lives have a strong sense of surface. Hand-painted paintings present a collection of decorative smells and folk art, and some buildings are presented in the gothic style of spires and spiky arches. The surrounding buildings are complemented by modern sloping roofs and flat roofs, and decorative elements are added according to the architectural style, combining retro and modern decorative elements.

Most of the pictures in the animated film "song of the sea" are composed with golden proportion, and many scenes are decorated with concentric circles, cloud patterns and vine

patterns, which are full of the mysterious symbolic meaning of art works of the ancient people. While the film is not completely obsessed with retro, it borrows the style and concept of a large number of modern art works without any trace. For example, in the scene decorated with retro pattern, modern vine pattern was used to render a large area of solid color background. And vine grain combines the spiral grain that changes forebear times and wave grain again, form rich contemporary breath to restore ancient ways to decorate grain case.

C. Overlapping Presentation of Texture and Material

In the selection of retro decorative elements or modern decorative elements, the application of texture and material has important aesthetic value. Texture and material can make the picture delicate, rough and tactile, so as to achieve the artistic effect of approaching the reality. It is an important construction factor of the picture context and also an important means to shape the scene and props. Texture and material can be the form of natural existence, or deliberately created texture patterns and material patterns, they have random and natural selectivity, they have the aesthetic value cannot be underestimated in the molding process of the picture; they have some of the aesthetic characteristics of expression techniques difficult to achieve. In the animation film "song of the sea", the texture of the stone is rendered by superimposing the stone, and the texture is depicted on it. The fine lines with high lightness are used to trace the line and the planar and three-dimensional interweaving are used in the light part. The scene in which Ben and Saoirse are with the elves is textured and textured. The statues standing on both sides are made of stone. The designers beautify the stone statues with the decorative elements of retro and modern, and add the changes of light and shade, forming a realistic picture image of the material. The background where the elves are standing in the center of the picture uses texture effect. The mottled texture expands the color Angle of the picture and increases the visibility of the picture.

D. Abstract Expression and Minimalist Feelings

Abstract expression and minimalism are activities of subjective consciousness. After stripping off all complex elements, they are recombined to express artistic appeals with simplified and abstract ideas and generalized elements. The modeling of song of the sea adopts concise and stylised design, integrating national retro and modern decorative elements, adding ink and ukiyo-e elements in the visual style, and adding extremely national harp and bagpipe effect in music, showing the strong Irish style incisively and vividly. In the color selection of scenes and roles, the ocean takes slightly gloomy blue as the main tone, and the protagonist takes bright orange-red as the main tone. The lines and colors are simple and the shapes are simple. The plot waves the feelings of abstraction and minimalism, showing the flexibility of decorative elements.

IV. CONCLUSION

The details never touch my heart. Song of the sea, a detailed and exquisite animation film that took years of

painstaking production, did not disappoint the public. It tells a slightly melancholy story in a gentle and delicate way. The fresh and beautiful decoration style constructs the pure land of the animation world, leads the audience to think about the humanistic value and arouses the beauty in people's hearts. At the same time, the film shows a distinct national style, and its retro and modern decorative elements are separated and linked together, just like the sounds of Irish folk songs strung together the rhythm of the film. The decorative atmosphere of retro and modern integration reveals the artistic appeal of the creators. They reflect the national style. They are the new fashion of animation creation and provide a new wind vane for animation creation.

REFERENCES

- [1] Chen Peipei. Creation, acceptance and theory: research on foreign influences of domestic animations [D]. Zhejiang University, 2016.
- [2] "Sea of the song" director, hand-painted remarks Chinese fans to laid a lead daydream [EB/OL]. http://www.sohu.com/a/106824281_157388, 2016-07-20.
- [3] (Ireland) Thomas William hazen rolston. mythological translation group of xi 'an international studies university (translator). Celtic myths and legends. Shaanxi normal university publishing house Co. LTD [M]. 2013.
- [4] Wang Mengying. Romantic narration of the song of the sea [J]. Film literature, 2017,(11) : 112-114.